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TCS-4165-58
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15 December 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Photographic Intelligence Center

SUBJECT : The Control Extension and Geodetic Uses of CHALICE Photography

REFERENCE : Memorandum for SA/PD/DCI, from Director, PIC, Same Subject, dated 3 December 1958 (TCS-4078-58)

I have read the reference and attachments thereto with interest and can summarize my views as follows:

1. I share your feeling that the exploitation of CHALICE photography for geodetic purposes is not a function of PIC, nor, indeed, of any part of this Agency. Moreover, I am inclined to believe that the exploitation of this material for other types of intelligence should have a higher priority if there is any competition between different uses of the material. For these reasons I question whether PIC can afford any major diversion of its resources to assist ACIC or the other mapping organizations and I do not believe that DPS can afford either the funds or the man power for such an activity as camera calibration.

2. Having stated these reservations, I must also agree with you that the most effective exploitation of this material for geodetic uses seems to me clearly to be in the national interest and to have very considerable importance in view of the importance of accurate position information to the Air Force. Thus, the problem before us is how we can help the Air Force to meet this requirement without either interference with our operations or a diversion of CIA resources to the performance of non-CIA tasks.

3. As to ACIC's request to PIC for personnel (referred to in para 2 of attachment B to your referenced memorandum) I cannot offer any useful advice beyond the suggestion that you do what you can for them.

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4. As to the detailed and comprehensive individual camera calibration which, as I understand it, is proposed in [REDACTED] letter to you of 18 April (attachment A), I believe the next step should be to develop answers to the following questions:

a. What would be the cost of this operation and would the Air Force be prepared to pay for it?

b. What would be involved in the calibration?? Would every camera have to be calibrated (as I assume)? Where would the calibration be done and by whom?

c. What would be the impact of a calibration program on current operations or on R&D activities at [REDACTED]

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d. How many presently unwitting personnel from what organizations would have to be made knowledgeable of CHALICE and in what degree in order to accomplish the calibration?

e. Assuming that the calibration is accomplished and that it becomes possible to exploit TALENT materials for geodetic purposes, how widely will the circle of TALENT-cleared personnel have to be extended as the materials are used?

5. The foregoing probably suggests what my reaction will probably be to the answers to these questions.

a. Plainly, we cannot tolerate any serious interference with current operations or necessary development work. Perhaps any difficulty on this score could be overcome by borrowing back cameras from the FOG while the calibration program is going on.

b. I do not believe we can afford to pay too high a price at this time in the form of additional CHALICE and TALENT clearances. Certainly, in exploring the above questions every effort should be made to devise a program that would involve the smallest possible number of persons.

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6. I suggest that your reply to [REDACTED] might state: That we would like to help them all we can; that we must work out with them the answers to the questions in paragraph 4 above and we must try to avoid the difficulties referred to in paragraph 5 above; and that after such exploration we will give him a definite answer.

RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Special Assistant to the Director
for Planning and Development

cc: DD/I (cy 2)

PS/DCI (Mr. Reber) (cy 3) ✓
Deputy Project Director DPS/DCI (cy 4)
Director of Operations DPS/DCI (cy 5)
Director of D&P DPS/DCI (cy 6)
SA/PD/DCI subj file (cy 7)
SA/PD/DCI chrono (cy 8)

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